Geipe Road Associates Petitioners

## FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

\* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \*

This matter comes before the Deputy Zoning Commissioner as a Petition for Variance filed by the owners of the subject property, Geipe Road Associates, by John J. Germenko, a General Partner, and the Contract Lessee, Exxon Company, U.S.A., by S. D. Mitchell, through their attorney Jeffrey H. Scherr, Esquire. The Petitioners request a variance from Section 413.2.F of the Baltimore County Zoning Regulations (B.C.Z.R.) to permit 11 freestanding business signs totalling 653 sq.ft. in lieu of the maximum permitted three business signs of 100 sq.ft. total, all as more particularly described on Petitioner's Exhibit 1.

Appearing on behalf of the Petitioners was Tony J. Corteal, a Professional Engineer with STV Group, Inc., the firm which prepared the site plan for the subject property. The Petitioners were represented by Jeffrey H. Scherr, Esquire. There were no Protestants.

Testimony indicated that the subject property, known as 6323 Baltimore National Pike, consists of a gross area of .689 acres, more or less, zoned B.R.-C.C.C. and is the site of a Chevron gasoline service station. On behalf of the Petitioners, Mr. Corteal testified that Exxon and Chevron have agreed to a property swap whereby Exxon will take over 63 gasoline stations that belong to Chevron here in the northeast and Chevron will acquire several of the Exxon service stations which currently exist

in the southern portion of Florida. The Petitioners are desirous of converting the existing Chevron station on the subject property to an Exxon qasoline station and placing their own business signs on the site accord-By virtue of converting the subject property as proposed, the requested variances are necessary. Testimony indicated that only 120 sq.ft. more signage than that currently existing is proposed and that some of the signs have been consolidated to give a cleaner appearance to the

An area variance may be granted where strict application of the zoning regulations would cause practical difficulty to the Petitioner and McLean v. Soley, 270 Md. 208 (1973). To prove practical difficulty for an area variance, the Petitioner must meet the following:

- 1) whether strict compliance with requirement would unreasonably prevent the use of the property for a permitted purpose or render conformance unnecessarily
- 2) whether the grant would do substantial injustice to applicant as well as other property owners in the district or whether a lesser relaxation than that applied for would give substantial relief; and
- 3) whether relief can be granted in such fashion that the spirit of the ordinance will be observed and public safety and welfare secured.

Anderson v. Bd. of Appeals, Town of Chesapeake Beach, 22 Md. App. 28

It is clear from the testimony that if the variance is granted, such use, as proposed, will not be contrary to the spirit of the B.C.Z.R. and will not result in any injury to the public good.

After due consideration of the testimony and evidence presented, it is clear that practical difficulty or unreasonable hardship will result if the variance is not granted. It has been established that special

- 2-

circumstances or conditions exist that are peculiar to the land or structure which is the subject of this variance request and that the requirements from which the Petitioner seeks relief will unduly restrict the use of the land due to the special conditions unique to this particular parcel. In addition, the variance requested will not cause any injury to the public health, safety or general welfare. Further, the granting of the Petitioner's request is in strict harmony with the spirit and intent of the B.C.Z.R.

Pursuant to the advertisement, posting of the property, and public hearing on this Petition held, and for the reasons given above, the variance requested should be granted.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED by the Deputy Zoning Commissioner for Baltimore County this 13th day of July, 1993 that the Petition for Variance requesting relief from Section 413.2.F of the Baltimore County Zoning Regulations (B.C.Z.R.) to permit 11 freestanding business signs totalling 653 sq.ft. in lieu of the maximum permitted three business signs of 100 sq.ft. each, in accordance with Petitioner's Exhibit 1, be and is hereby GRANTED, subject to the following restriction:

> 1) The Petitioners may apply for their permits and be granted same upon receipt of this Order; however, Petitioners are hereby made aware that proceeding at this time is at their own risk until such time as the 30-day appellate process from this Order has expired. If, for whatever reason, this Order is reversed, the relief granted shall be rescinded.

> > - 3-

IMOTHY M. KOTROCO Deputy Zoning Commissioner for Baltimore County

190 PM

Baltimore County Government Zoning Commissioner Office of Planning and Zoning

July 13, 1993

Suite 113 Courthouse 400 Washington Avenue Towson, MD 21204

(410) 887-4386

Jeffrey H. Scherr, Esquire Kramon & Graham One South Street, Suite 2600 Baltimore, Maryland 21202

RE: PETITION FOR VARIANCE SE/Corner Baltimore National Pike and Geipe Road (6323 Baltimore National Pike) 1st Election District - 1st Councilmanic District Geipe Road Associates - Petitioners Case No. 93-425-A

Dear Mr. Scherr:

Enclosed please find a copy of the decision rendered in the above-captioned matter. The Petition for Variance has been granted in accordance with the attached Order.

In the event any party finds the decision rendered is unfavorable, any party may file an appeal to the County Board of Appeals within thirty (30) days of the date of this Order. For further information on filing an appeal, please contact the Zoning Administration and Development Management office at 887-3391.

Very truly yours,

TIMOTHY M. KOTROCO Deputy Zoning Commissioner

for Baltimore County cc: S. D. Mitchell

Exxon Company, 6301 Ivy Lane, Suite 700, Greenbelt, Md. 21770 People's Counsel

Printed on Recycled Paper

## Petition for Variance to the Zoning Commissioner of Baltimore County for the property located at 6323 Baltimore National Pike

which is presently zoned BR-CCC This Petition shall be filed with the Office of Zoning Administration & Development Management.

The undersigned, legal owner(s) of the property situate in Baltimore County and which is described in the description and plat attached hereto and made a part hereof, hereby petition for a Variance from Section(s) 1) 413.2.F (BCZR) to permit 653 SF of business sign area in lieu of the permitted 100 SF. 2) 413.2.F (BCZR) to permit lifreestanding business signs in lieu of the

of the Zoning Regulations of Baltimore County, to the Zoning Law of Baltimore County; for the following reasons: (indicate hardship or

See ATTACHMENT A

permitted 3 for the site.

Property is to be posted and advertised as prescribed by Zoning Regulations. I, or we, agree to pay expenses of above Variance advertising, posting, etc., upon filing of this petition, and further agree to and are to be bound by the zoning regulations and restrictions of Baltimore County adopted pursuant to the Zoning Law for Baltimore County.

	I/We do selemnly ductore and affirm, under the penalties of perjury, that I/we are the legal owner(s) of the property which is the subject of this Potition.
Contract PurchaserAssess:	Legal Owner(s):
EXXON COMPANY, U.S.A DIVISION of	GEILE KOHN HSSUCIHTES
SO. Mtclell	Sprayo Strong CANERAL  Sprayo FAFTHER
6301 Ivy Lane, Suite 700	(Type or Print Name)
Greenbelt MD 20770	100 Val. 10 - (4 ) 100 min
Jeffrey H. Scherr	7301 YORK ROAD (410) 788-5100 BALTIMORE MD 21204
Kramon & Granam, P.A.	Cay State Decede Name, Address and phone number of legal curren, contract purchases of representative CONTACT:
One South Street, Suite 2600 (410)752-6030	EXXON COMPANY, U.S.A.
Baltimore, Maryland 21202	6301 Ivy Lane, Greenbelt, MD 21770
City State Speeds	Address Phone No.
	OFFICE USE ONLY

and . re

## ATTACHMENT A

93-425-A

There are currently four existing freestanding signs located along the site frontage of Route 40. These signs can be described as (a) an illuminated "diesel" sign; (2) a metal price sign; (3) a metal "open 24 hours" sign; and (4) the freestanding sign consisting of the Chevron ID panel and price sign. These existing signs for the Chevron Service Station will be removed and replaced with a single Exxon ID, Services and price sign. The combination of these signs into one sign will greatly improve the overall appearance of the site along Route 40. The previous Chevron metal price sign and auto "diesel" sign are not counted as part of the existing freestanding ID sign because "Chevron" is not a part of either sign. In an effort to improve the original appearance of the site, Exxon would like to combine these signs with their "Exxon" identification sign. The area for the pricing information and services would, therefore, be incorporated into the overall area calculation causing an apparent increase. However, the ID portion of the sign is actually decreased. The existing Chevron ID panel has an area of 240 SF (two sides). The proposed Exxon ID panel is 128.40 SF (two sides). The identification portion of the sign is being reduced; the increase in the total square footage is due to the combination of the ID sign with the price and service signs. The seven of eleven freestanding signs are all existing signs and their appearance will be modified from the "Chevron" format to "Exxon" standards. Two existing canopy fascia will be removed and four pump island spreaders will be added under the canopy to the site.

The requirement to calculate the pricing and service signs as part of the freestanding sign calculations would provide undo hardship for Exxon when they are actually attempting to improve the overall site appearance. As can be seen in the signage calculations, Exxon has reduced the total amount of signage on the site. We, therefore, request the Zoning Commissioner to approve the variances listed above.

STV Group

ZONING DESCRIPTION EXXON COMPANY, U.S.A. SOUTHEAST CORNER OR BALTIMORE NATIONAL PIKE AND GEIPE ROAD 1ST ELECTION DISTRICT, 1ST COUNCILMANIC DISTRICT

BEGINNING at a point along the southwesterly side of Baltimore National Pike, U.S. Route No. 40 (150) feet wide), said point being distant South 74°19'54" East 51.1 feet from the center of Geipe Road, thence running along said southwesterly side of Baltimore National Pike, by a curve to the left having.

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND.

- 1. A radius of 3,894.72 feet, an arc length of 183.89 feet, said curve being subtended by a chord bearing South 75°08'05" East 183.87 feet to a point, thence leaving said Baltimore National Pike and continuing,
- 2. South 15°40'06" West 107.00 feet to a point, thence,
- 3. North 74°19'54" West 199.97 feet to a point to intersect the southeasterly side of Geipe Road (70 feet wide), thence along same,
- 4. North 15°40'06" East 92.42 feet to a point for the beginning of a site flare or fillet, thence along same,
- 5. North 68°59'40" East 20.09 feet to the point of beginning.

CONTAINING 20,889 square feet or 0.4795 acre of land, more or less, as recorded in a deed to Gulf Oil Corporation in Liber O.T.G. No. 4504, folio 273, etc.

Mark A. Riddle MD Professional Land Surveyor No. 10899

April 30, 1993

MA See See Stevenson Value & Kin

SIA Sanders & Donnes

SIN I will Associate

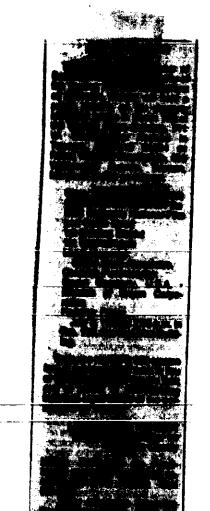
SIA In Sommers

STA Mariana

21 Governor's Court. Baltimore, MD 21244-2722. tel: 410-944-9112. fax: 410/298-2794.

CERTIFICATE OF POSTIM TOMBLE DEPARTMENT OF BALSWOOD CO.

Posted for:	Date of Posting 6//3/93
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etitioner: Goipis RJ. Assoc. &	FIXONO, USB.
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	oction of Geran RA + Bollo. Not. P.K.



CERTIFICATE OF PUBLICATION

THIS IS TO CERTIFY, that the annexed advertisement was

published in THE JEFFERSONIAN, a weekly newspaper published in Towson, Baltimore County, Md., once in each of \_\_\_\_\_ suc 

THE JEFFERSONIAN.

(MMERCIAL VAR. FILING CODE 020 1 SIEN POSTNL CODE 080 \_

GEIPE RD ASSCIATES LOC: 6323 BALTO NATIVE PIKE

> 0260280012610880 PA CORRESPONDED TO: Baltimore County

Zoning Plans Advisory Committee Comments Date: June 21, 1993

2) Anyone using this system should be fully aware that they are responsible for the accuracy and completeness of any such petition. All petitions filed in this manner will be reviewed and commented on by Zoning personnel prior to the hearing. In the event that the petition has not been filed correctly, there is always a possibility that another hearing will be required or the Zoning Commissioner will deny the petition due to errors or incompleteness.

3) Attorneys, engineers and applicants who make appointments to file petitions on a regular basis and fail to keep the appointment without a 72 hour notice will be required to submit the appropriate filing fee at the time future appointments are made. Failure to keep these appointments without proper advance notice, i.e. 72 hours, will result in the forfeiture loss of the filing fee.

Zoning Coordinator

WCR:hek

Enclosures

**Baltimore County Government** Office of Zoning Administration and Development Management

111 West Chesapeake Avenue Towson, MD 21204

(410) 887-3353

ZONING HEARING ADVERTISING AND POSTING REQUIREMENTS & PROCEDURES

Baltimore County Zoning Regulations require that notice be given to the general public/neighboring property owners relative to property which is the subject of an upcoming zoning hearing. For those petitions which require a public hearing, this notice is accomplished by posting a sign on the property and placement of a notice in at least one

This office will ensure that the legal requirements for posting and advertising are satisfied. However, the petitioner is responsible for the costs associated with these requirements.

PAYMENT WILL BE MADE AS FOLLOWS:

newspaper of general circulation in the County.

1) Posting fees will be accessed and paid to this office at the time of filing.

2) Billing for legal advertising, due upon receipt, will come from and should be remitted directly to the newspaper. NON-PAYMENT OF ADVERTISING FEES WILL STAY ISSUANCE OF ZONING ORDER.

For newspaper advertising: Item No.: 437

Petitioner: EXXON COMPANY, U.S.A. Location: 6323 BATIMORE NATIONAL PILE

PLEASE FORWARD ADVERTISING BILL TO: NAME: STU GROUP

ADDRESS: 21 GOVERNORS COURT PATIMORE, MD. 21244 PHONE NUMBER: 944-9112

Printed on Recycled Paper

(Revised 04/09/93)

**Baltimore County Government** Office of Zoning Administration and Development Management

111 West Chesapeake Avenue Towson, MD 21204 JUNE 11, 1993

(410) 887-3353

NOTICE OF HEARING

The Zoning Commissioner of Baltimore County, by authority of the Zoning Act and Regulations of Baltimore County, will hold a public hearing on the property identified herein in Room 106 of the County Office Building, 111 W. Chesapeake Avenue in Townen, Maryland 21204

Room 118, Old Courthouse, 400 Washington Evenue, Towson, Maryland 21204 as follows:

CASE NUMBER: 93-425-A (Item 433) 6323 Baltimore National Pike SEC Baltimore National Pike and Geipe Road 1st Election District - 1st Councilmanic Legal Owner(s): Geipe Road Associates Contract Purchaser(s): Exxon Company, U.S.A. - Division of Exxon Corporation HEARING: FRIDAY, JULY 2, 1993 at 2:00 p.m. in Rm. 106, County Office Building..

Variance to permit 653 square feet of business sign area in lieu of the permitted 100 square feet; and to permit 11 free-standing business signs in lieu of the permitted 3 for the site.

cc: Geipe Road Associates Exxon Company, U.S.A. Jeffrey H. Scherr, Esq.

NOTES: (1) ZONING SIGN & POST MUST BE RETURNED TO RM. 104, 111 W. CHESAPEAKE AVENUE ON THE HEARING DATE. (2) HEARINGS ARE HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE; FOR SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS PLEASE CALL 887-3353. (3) FOR INFORMATION CONCERING THE FILE AND/OR HEARING, CONTACT THIS OFFICE AT 887-3391.

ZZ.

Baltimore County Government Office of Zoning Administration and Development Management

111 West Chesapeake Avenue Towson, MD 21204

(410) 887-3353

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HK

June 21, 1993

Jeffrey H. Scherr, Esquire Kramon and Graham, P.A. One South Street, SME 2600 Baltimore, MD 21202

> RE: Case No. 93-425-A, Item No.: 4<u>3</u>3 Petitioner: Geipe Road Associates, et al Petition for Variance

Dear Mr. Scherr:

The Zoning Plans Advisory Committee (ZAC) has reviewed the plans submitted with the above referenced petition. The attached comments from each reviewing agency are not intended to indicate the appropriateness of the zoning action requested, but to assure that all parties, i.e., Zoning Commissioner, attorney and/or the petitioner, are made aware of plans or problems with regard to the proposed improvements that may have a bearing on this case.

Enclosed are all comments submitted thus far from the members of ZAC that offer or request information on your petition. If additional comments are received from other members of ZAC, I will forward them to you. Otherwise, any comment that is not informative will be placed in the hearing file. This petition was accepted for filing on June 1, 1993, and a hearing was scheduled accordingly.

The following comments are related only to the filing of future zoning petitions and are aimed at expediting the petition filing process with this office.

1) The Director of Zoning Administration and Development Management has instituted a system whereby seasoned zoning attorneys who feel that they are capable of filing petitions that comply with all aspects of the zoning regulations and petitions filing requirements can file their petitions with this office without the necessity of a preliminary review by Zoning personnel.

. . .

O. James Lighthizer Secretary Hal Kassoff Administrator

6-17-93

Ms. Helene Kehring Zoning Administration and Development Management County Office Building Room 109 111 W. Chesapeake Avenue Re: Baltimore County Item No.: +433 (JLL)

Towson, Maryland 21204

Dear Ms. Kehring:

This office has reviewed the referenced item and we have no objection to approval as it does not access a State roadway and is not effected by any State Highway Administration projects.

Please contact Bob Small at 410-333-1350 if you have any questions.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this item.

John Contestabile, Chief

My telephone number is \_\_\_\_\_

Teletypewriter for Impaired Hearing or Speech 383-7555 Baltimore Metro - 555-0451 D.C. Metro - 1-800-492-5062 Statewide Toli Free 707 North Calvert St., Baltimore, Maryland 21203-0717

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

DATE: June 16, 1993

INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

TO: Arnold Jablon, Director Zoning Administration and Development Management

FROM: Pat Keller, Deputy Director Office of Planning and Zoning

SUBJECT: Petitions from Zoning Advisory Committee

The Office of Planning and Zoning has no comments on the following petition(s): Item Nos. 433, 434, 436 and 437.

If there should be any further questions or if this office can provide additional information, please contact Jeffrey Long in the Office of Planning at 887-3480.

PK/JL:lw

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

TO: Zoning Advisory Committee

DATE: <u>June 16. 1993</u> FROM: Jerry L. Pfeifer, Captain

SUBJECT: June 24, 1993, Meeting

Fire Department

No comments

No comments No comments No comments

> No comments Building shall be built in compliance with the 1991 Life Safety Code and the Baltimore

County Fire Prevention Code. Building shall comply with the applicable

sections of the 1991 Life Safety Code and the Baltimore County Fire Prevention Code.

STATE OF THE STATE JUN 17 1993

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433.ZAC/ZAC1

